

DCI/IC-75-0556
17 MAR 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC
AD/DCI/IC
PD/D/DCI/IC
C/CS/ICS

SUBJECT : NSC Staff Organization and Membership

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information and to answer specific questions regarding various organizational aspects of the National Security Council Staff.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the NSC Staff. In order to properly serve the National Security Council as the central point for decision making, the NSC System and Staff was set up to ensure and to facilitate the following objectives

a. Provide an orderly presentation of national security policy issues to the President and his principal advisers;

b. Ensure consideration of the full range of policy choices and the arguments for and against the various alternatives, including a fair presentation of the views of all interested agencies;

c. Provide an understanding of the longer-range ramifications of policy decisions; and

d. Ensure efficient operations and implementation of policy in the national security field.

3. Organization of the NSC Staff. The NSC is supported by a staff of about 40 professionals under the direction of Dr. Kissinger in his role as the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. He chairs all the major sub-groups of the NSC except one and his staff is represented on every inter-departmental group, regardless of the level considering NSC matters. (See attachment #1, NSC Staff Organization.)

4. The NSC Staff itself is designed for both operations and planning. Due to the nature of the NSC System which seeks to ensure that those with operational responsibilities are looking ahead and those with planning responsibilities are in close touch with action officers, there is naturally some overlap between the operators and planners. Nevertheless, as would be expected, their responsibilities, roles and tasks differ.

5. The NSC Staff members concerned with operations are assigned specific regional or functional responsibilities, e.g., Latin America, Europe and USSR, Science and Technology, or International Economic Affairs. The operator's responsibilities and tasks include the following:

- a. To provide expertise in their areas;
- b. To keep the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs briefed on developments in their fields;
- c. To maintain contacts with their agency counterparts;
- d. To sit as White House representatives on interdepartmental groups and committees;
- e. To help ensure that papers being prepared include the relevant options and arguments for the President; and
- f. To assist Dr. Kissinger in monitoring implementation of Presidential decisions.

6. Working very closely with the operators, is the Planning Group. It is concerned with fulfilling the following responsibilities and tasks:

- a. To help anticipate problems which require orderly consideration by the Government;
- b. To help shape planning guidance and the terms of reference for proposed studies;
- c. To participate in interagency and in-house planning efforts;
- d. To examine papers that come to the NSC Senior Review Group and NSC proper to see that all relevant options are spelled out; and
- e. To maintain a flow of ideas through contact with the academic community, with research groups and other concerned citizens and organizations.

7. The only other group of any significant size on the NSC Staff is the Program Analysts people. They are primarily involved in anticipating long-term problems not associated with a particular nation or area and which require systematic analysis, e.g., MBFR or SALT.

8. Membership on the NSC Staff. There are currently, November 1974, 40 professionals assigned to the NSC Staff. The bulk are Foreign Service Officers from the Department of State; 8 detailed from the Department of Defense; 3 from the U.S. Information Agency and 3 from CIA. The tours of duty have varied from 1 to 4 years. The average tour length being approximately 2 years. (See Attachment #2, NSC Staff Members.)

9. The intent of this memorandum is to provide background information on the NSC Staff; I hope you find it useful.

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[redacted]
Captain, USAF
Coordination Staff, ICS

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2 Attachments: as stated

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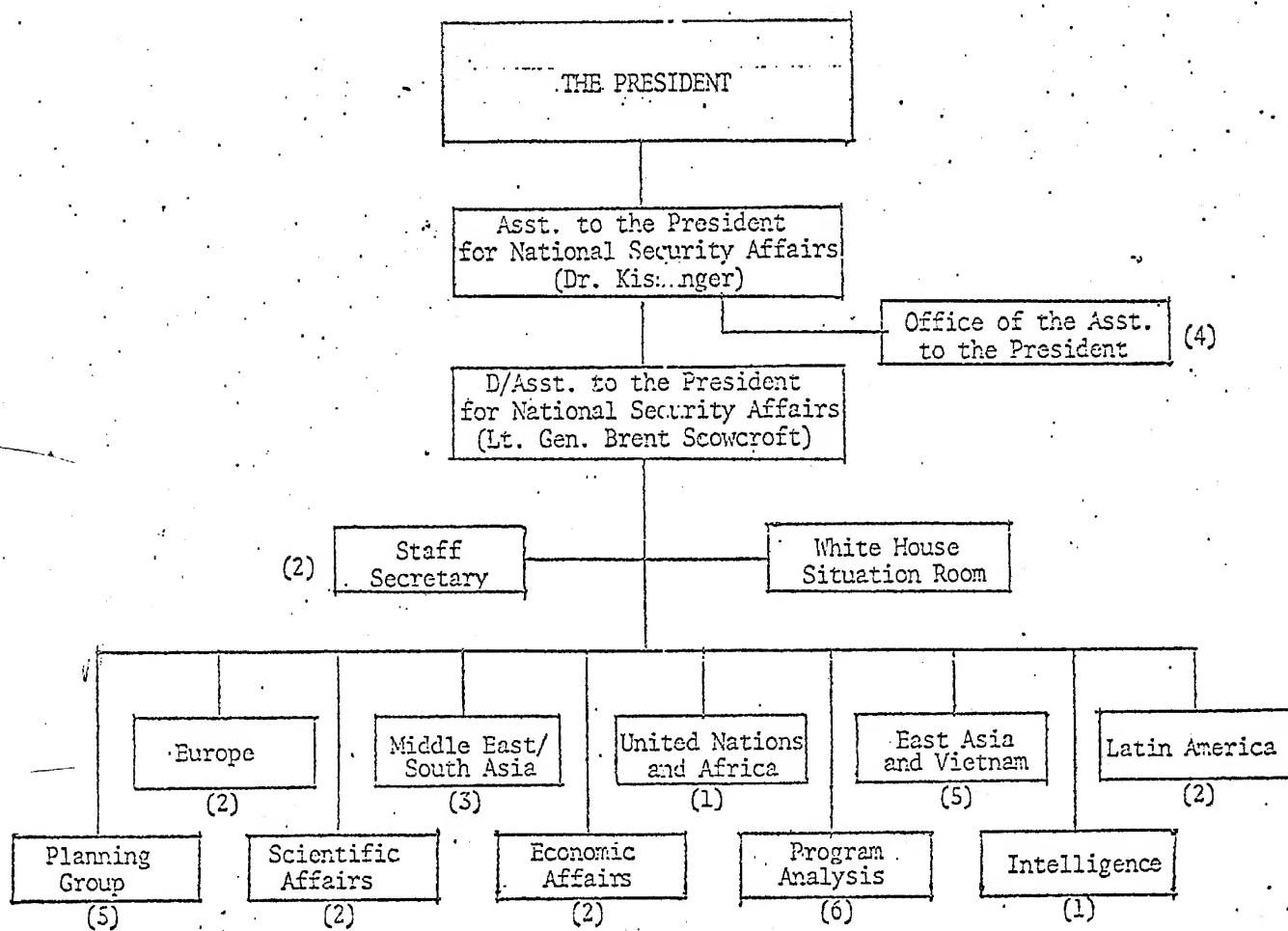
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How the NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF is organized:



Current Strength: 40 Professionals

Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP80M01133A000600100020-0
20 October 1974

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